

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 016907/0935

In re patent application of

Susumu HASHIMOTO et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned
(Continuation of 09/146,222)

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: February 20, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: MAGNETORESISTANCE EFFECT ELEMENT WITH
IMPROVED ANTIFERROMAGNETIC LAYER

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-captioned continuation application,
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Between the Title and Background of the Invention, please insert --This is a
continuation application of Serial No. 09/146,222 filed September 2, 1998, which is a
reissue application of U.S. Patent No. 5,552,949 issued September 3, 1996.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21, 24, 25, and 30-37 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as follows: